



# Intelligence Information Cable

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

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~~SECRET~~

DIST SEPTEMBER 1972

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM/USSR/LAOS

DOI SEPTEMBER 1972

SUBJECT 1. POSSIBLE ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN POW'S IN VIENTIANE ON  
6 OR 13 SEPTEMBER 1972 ICC FLIGHTS

2.

TO WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM:

NO DISTRIBUTION EXCEPT TO DR. KISSINGER

TO STATE

: NO DISTRIBUTION EXCEPT TO DR. RAY S. CLINE

TO DIA

: EXCLUSIVE FOR VICE ADMIRAL DE POIX

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NAVY DNI, REAR ADMIRAL RECTANUS:

AIR FORCE AF/IN, MAJOR GENERAL KEEGAN

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: FEB 2001

~~SECRET~~

(classification)

(dissem controls)

15202-108-0

**SECRET**

(classification)

(dissem controls)

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO HANOI ILYA S H C H E R B A K O B, SPEAK-  
ING DURING A STOPOVER IN [REDACTED] OF THE [REDACTED] SEPTEMBER 1972 AEROFLOT  
FLIGHT FROM HANOI TO MOSCOW, STATED THAT HE HEARD SHORTLY BEFORE DE-  
PARTING HANOI THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PLANNED TO RELEASE FIVE AMERI-  
CAN PRISONERS OF WAR ON 2 SEPTEMBER 1972 AND THAT THE RELEASED PRISON-  
ERS WOULD BE SENT TO VIENTIANE ABOARD THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COM-  
MISSION FLIGHT OF EITHER 6 SEPTEMBER OR 13 SEPTEMBER 1972. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SHCHERBAKOV APPARENTLY DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE SOURCE OF HIS  
INFORMATION. A 2 SEPTEMBER BROADCAST BY RADIO HANOI STATING THREE AMERI-  
CAN PRISONERS WOULD BE RELEASED IN COMMEMORATION OF NORTH VIETNAM'S  
NATIONAL DAY PROMPTED SPECULATION THAT THE PRISONERS MIGHT ARRIVE IN  
VIENTIANE ABOARD THE 2 SEPTEMBER AEROFLOT FLIGHT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
DURING WHICH A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCED THAT THE THREE AMERICAN  
PRISONERS WOULD BE RELEASED TO THE ORGANIZATION IN HANOI IN A MATTER OF  
WEEKS.)

2.

[REDACTED] AMBASSADOR SHCHERBAKOV

CONFERRED WITH ACTING SOVIET CONSUL [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] REGARDING TWO SOVIET CHARTER FLIGHTS WHICH WERE BEING;  
HELD UP AT THE VIETIANE AIRPORT AWAITING PERMISSION TO LAND IN  
HANOI. SHCHERBAKOV REMARKED THAT NO ONE IN HANOI IS INTERESTED

**SECRET**

(classification)

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

[REDACTED]

IN EXPEDITING THESE FLIGHTS TO THEIR DESTINATION, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT [REDACTED] SEND A MESSAGE TO HANOI VIA THE VIENTIANE AIRPORT RADIO STATING THAT IF THE PLANES WERE NOT GIVEN PERMISSION TO LAND IN HANOI THEY WOULD RETURN TO MOSCOW. HANOI WAS CONTACTED EARLY ON THE MORNING OF 3 SEPTEMBER 1972 AND AGAIN PERMISSION WAS DELAYED. AT 0800 HOURS ON 3 SEPTEMBER, APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER THE SOVIET REQUEST WAS RELAYED TO HANOI, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GAVE PERMISSION FOR THE AIRCRAFT TO DEPART AND THEY LEFT VIENTIANE AT ABOUT 0815 HOURS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE UNSCHEDULED LANDING IN VIENTIANE OF SOVIET PLANE AN-12 NO. 11120 ON THE AFTERNOON OF 31 AUGUST. THE OTHER PLANE WHICH DEPARTED VIENTIANE ON 3 SEPTEMBER, AN-12 NO. 11129 HAD BEEN ON THE GROUND SINCE 29 AUGUST.)

3. [REDACTED]

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

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